

State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources Fire Suppression BRU/Component Budget Summary

BRU/Component: Fire Suppression

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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Component Mission

The Division of Forestry's mission is to manage wildland fires in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, meeting statutory requirements to provide wildland fire protection to all state, municipal and private lands.

Component Services Provided

This component enables the Division of Forestry to meet its statutory responsibility AS41.15.010 for wildland fires on all state, municipal and private lands in Alaska.

The Division will provide rapid and aggressive initial attack on wildland fires consistent with the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan. This will be accomplished through cooperative agreements with federal and local government fire cooperators.

This component funds wildland fire suppression operations and fixed operating costs to provide for critical supplies, services, equipment, and personnel. Helicopters, air tankers and light fixed-wing aircraft will be contracted from private vendors to provide detection, transportation of initial attack firefighters, and application of fire retardant to wildland fires. Village emergency firefighting crews, incidental emergency firefighters, local government and federal cooperator personnel will be hired in emergency situations to supplement the Division's firefighters.

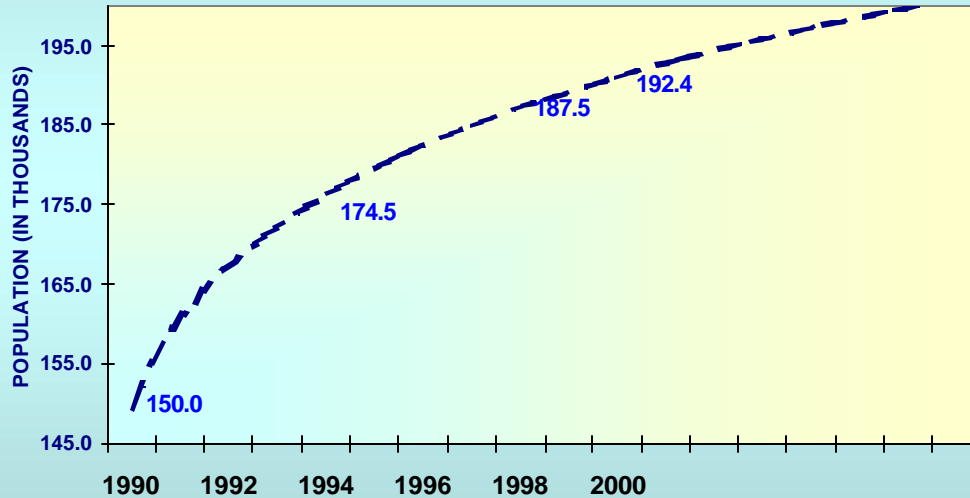
Additional detail on fire suppression average year costs available upon request from DNR Admin Services Manager (Nico Bus 465-2406).

Component Goals and Strategies

The goal of this component is to manage wildland fire in order to protect human life, inhabited improvements, Alaska's natural resources and other critical sites.

Strategies to be utilized are to provide for immediate and effective initial attack to suppress all fires in the populated areas of the state and to protect critical sites in areas of the state as specified in the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan. Additional strategies are to coordinate emergency response efforts with local government, other state agencies and federal agency cooperators and to employ residents of Alaska in fighting wildland fires. Firefighters and resources available for rapid initial attack in the urban interface can be very effective in keeping new fires small.

URBAN INTERFACE GROWTH 1990 THROUGH 2000



Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

Responding to the rising numbers of urban interface fires as Alaska's population continues to move into the forested areas of the state is one of the key issues facing the Division and its cooperators. In 1999 the Division suppressed six serious urban interface fires that directly threatened inhabited structures. During 2000, Forestry responded to 16 fires that involved structures threatened by wildland fire. In 2001, 230 of the 299 fires in Forestry responsibility areas were urban interface fires. The urban interface fire zone continues to increase as new homes and subdivisions are built.

The increasing wildland fire protection responsibility is also one of the key issues the Division is facing. Fixed costs continue to rise and the state's wildland fire seasons are longer than in past years.

The Division's Wildland Fire Management Program consists of two components. This component funds fire suppression and the Forest Management and Development Component funds preparedness. The annual cost of wildland fire suppression over the past ten years has consistently exceeded budgeted funding. This has been recognized by both the administration and legislature and additional funding has been made available through the use of the emergency declaration process and supplemental appropriations.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

- Successfully suppressed 98% of the 218 fires in critical protection at 10 acres or less, exceeding the measure of 90%. This also exceeded performance in the 1999 fire season which successfully suppressed 93% of the 306 fires in critical protection. This measure is highly dependent upon conditions including weather, winds, number of simultaneous fires, etc. This trend supports an outcome of decreased wildland/urban interface fires that reach project fire level, thus saving the state suppression costs and protecting public lives and property.
- Successfully suppressed 97% of 281 fires in critical and full protection at 10 acres or less, meeting the measure of 90%. This also exceeded performance in the 1999 fire season that successfully suppressed 93% of the 303 fires in

critical protection. These urban/ interface fires were suppressed by firefighters in Tok, Fairbanks, Delta, Copper River, McGrath, Palmer/Big Lake, Soldotna and the Haines Area Offices. This trend supports an outcome of decreased wildland/urban interface fires that require extended and more expensive attack.

Employed 26 EFF village crews in-state and 20 EFF village crews and 4 Type I crews out-of-state, as well as 56

- individual EFF for a total of wages paid to Alaskans of \$5.1 million. Hiring EFF crews supports an outcome of increased employment for Alaskans in rural areas that have few sources of income.
- Provided Alaskan aviation vendors with income from 12 90-day aircraft contracts for helicopters, air tankers and fixed wing aircraft used to support wildland and wildland/ urban interface fire suppression. Economic support of Alaskan aviation vendors results in an outcome of a healthier aviation sector and increased employment.
- Managed and responded to a total of 299 fires in both wildland and wildland/urban interface areas on 134 million acres. A diversified outcome effect results in increased employment, increased economic benefit to vendors, protection of life and property.
- Provided fire weather forecasting a minimum of 3 days per week during fire season, providing critical information to managers making decisions to institute fire burn bans, position firefighters and aircraft in certain areas, and call in more resources. The outcome is more efficient fire management which saves the state money.
- Analyze daily lightning occurrence data to determine areas where fires are most likely to occur. Provide aircraft detection to areas of multiple strikes and provide rapid response to fire starts in areas with high value natural resources and human improvements. The outcome is more efficient fire management which saves the state money.
- Generated \$14.5 million into the Alaskan economy through payments to 995 vendors who supplied additional aircraft detection, commodities and supplies during fire suppression activities this season. This major economic influx supports an outcome of increased employment and an increased economic stimulus to the state's economy.
- Purchased smokejumper capabilities from the federal government saving the state duplication of services and funding. This supports an outcome of more efficient government.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Alaska Statutes - Title 41

Section 41.15.010 - 41.15.170

Section 41.15.200 - 41.15.240

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The target is to reduce the number of wildland fires that are human caused, within the Division's protection areas.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

This target may not accurately reflect the success of fire prevention. A more accurate target may be "The number of fires that result from human actions, whether as a function of population growth or other causes."

Statistical review of data for the past 16 years is provided in the following chart.

STATE PROTECTION AREA	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
TOTAL FIRES	260	333	338	558	565	327	446	535
HUMAN CAUSED	247	302	322	373	511	298	373	430
% HUMAN CAUSED	95.0%	90.7%	95.3%	66.8%	90.4%	91.1%	83.6%	80.4%
STATE PROTECTION AREA	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
TOTAL FIRES	332	493	460	429	321	489	507	319
HUMAN CAUSED	321	363	312	410	275	453	383	278
% HUMAN CAUSED	96.7%	73.6%	67.8%	95.6%	85.7%	92.6%	75.5%	87.1%

This data shows that in low fire occurrence years, such as 1999 and 2000, the ratio as a percent between human caused and total fires is not a good indicator of prevention effectiveness. The relationship of high and low fire years is not as important as the role of lightning fires. In high fire years the total number of fires is much higher due to lightning caused fires, so the percentage of human caused fires is less. The actual number of human caused fires may not vary significantly. Thus, using a percentage is more reflective of the high or low lightning fire year (total number of fires) than the effectiveness of prevention in decreasing human caused fires. This target will be evaluated this fiscal year and will be changed as needed to more accurately reflect prevention effectiveness on human caused fires.

Benchmark Comparisons:

There are no comparable situations in other states with which to provide a benchmark.

Background and Strategies:

Wildland and wildland/urban interface fire occurrence and costs can be reduced to the extent that they can be prevented. Since a large percentage of the fires are human caused within Forestry's protection area (FY01 83%), the strategy is to target the urban areas, road system and railbelt with a fire prevention and awareness program.

Fire Suppression

Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	9,819.7	3,010.8	3,045.3
72000 Travel	634.4	34.7	34.7
73000 Contractual	11,324.0	4,746.9	4,746.9
74000 Supplies	1,969.2	704.5	704.5
75000 Equipment	602.9	20.0	20.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	24,350.2	8,516.9	8,551.4
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	10,072.1	5,321.0	5,321.8
1004 General Fund Receipts	14,259.6	3,195.9	3,229.6
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	6.7	0.0	0.0
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	7.9	0.0	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	3.9	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	24,350.2	8,516.9	8,551.4

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
<u>Unrestricted Revenues</u>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Restricted Revenues</u>						
Federal Receipts	51010	10,072.1	5,321.0	5,697.6	5,321.8	6,811.6
Interagency Receipts	51015	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		10,082.7	5,321.0	5,697.6	5,321.8	6,811.6
Total Estimated Revenues		10,082.7	5,321.0	5,697.6	5,321.8	6,811.6

Fire Suppression**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

This budget request assumes funding at current service levels.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor**

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	3,195.9	5,321.0	0.0	8,516.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	33.7	0.8	0.0	34.5
FY2003 Governor	3,229.6	5,321.8	0.0	8,551.4

Fire Suppression

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>		
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	8	8	Annual Salaries	1,011,014
Part-time	33	34	COLA	26,506
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	1,741
			Annual Benefits	379,537
			Less 0.00% Vacancy Factor	(0)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	1,626,502
Totals	41	42	Total Personal Services	3,045,300

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Tech I	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Maint Inspector	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot II	0	0	0	3	3
Aircraft Supervisor	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Journey	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Lead	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Sub Journey	0	0	0	2	2
Forest Tech II	0	1	0	1	2
Forest Tech III	0	0	0	1	1
Forest Tech IV	0	0	0	1	1
Forester I	0	1	0	1	2
Forester II	0	1	0	1	2
Forester III	1	0	0	0	1
Forester V	1	0	0	0	1
Maint Gen Sub - Journey I	0	0	0	4	4
Maint Gen Sub - Journey II	0	0	0	1	1
Personnel Asst II	0	0	1	0	1
Procurement Spec I	0	0	0	1	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey I	0	0	0	2	2
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey II	0	1	0	2	3
Stock & Parts Svcs Lead	0	1	0	0	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Sub Journey	0	3	0	6	9
Totals	2	8	1	31	42